(a) whether any new investments in the fertilizer sector have been made in the past five years;

(b) whether the proposed nutritional based subsidy regime scores over the prevailing product pricing regime; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) no new investments in fertilizer sector has been made in past five years. However, many of the existing urea units have taken up revamp of their existing units over last 1-2 years in view of the increasing demand-production gap of urea in the country and the pricing policy for new investments in urea sector announced by Government in September, 2008.

(b) and (c) Under the proposed nutrient based subsidy regime, the subsidy on fertilizer will be fixed on the basis of nutrients contained in the subsidized fertilizers. It is expected that nutrient based subsidy regime would encourage production and availability of innovative fertilizer products in the market at reasonable prices, which will lead to better agricultural productivity and consequently increased returns to the farmers. The unshackling of the fertilizer manufacturing sector is expected to attract fresh investments in this sector.

Justice to victims of Bhopal gas tragedy

†3691. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of success achieved in getting justice to the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) whether efforts are being made to clean the land and ground water around the factory;

(c) the status of extradition of Anderson; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) In its judgment dated 14th and 15th February, 1989, the Supreme Court directed the Union Carbide to deposit US $ 470 millions as a settlement of all past, present and future claims. As a result of Supreme Court Order, Union Carbide Company deposited US $ 470 millions (420 million in US dollar and approximately Rs.69 crore in Indian rupees) in March, 1989. The process of giving compensation started in November, 1992. 10,29,517 cases were registered for compensation. All the cases have since been settled. Compensation has been awarded in 5,74,370 cases by the Welfare Commissioner who is a sitting judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. An amount of Rs. 1549.04 crore has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

disbursed as compensation till 30th June, 2009. After deciding all the cases, except appeals and revision petitions, some amount remained unutilized. The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 19.7.2004, directed the Welfare Commissioner to disburse this unspent amount to the persons whose claims have been settled, on pro-rata basis, having due regard to the number of claims settled, unsettled and pending. The disbursement of pro-rata compensation started from 15.11.2004 and as on 10th July, 2009, 5,62,513 claimants have received additional Rs.1509.49 crores as pro-rata compensation.

(b) The High Court of Madhya Pradesh while hearing the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed in Writ Petition No. 2802/2004 regarding removal of toxic wastes from the former Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) Plant site at Bhopal, constituted a Task Force *vide* Order dated 30th March, 2005 for implementation of toxic waste removal/destruction. *Vide* Order dated 13th May, 2005, the High Court also considered a roadmap submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, prepared in consultation with the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, for environmental remediation of the former UCIL plant site. The Task Force has been monitoring the implementation of the roadmap. As per the Orders/directions issued by the High Court and in compliance thereof, 40 MT of Lime Sludge was disposed of at the Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF) at Pithampur, near Indore in the last week of June, 2008. The High Court had directed *vide* Orders dated 15th July, 2008 and 16th December, 2008, that 350 MT of other toxic wastes will be transported to Ankleshwar for incineration in the incinerator of M/s. Bharuch Enviro Infrastructure Limited, at Ankleshwar, Gujarat. However, the Government of Gujarat has filed Special Leave Petitions in the Supreme Court against these orders of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. The matter is sub-judice.

The Task Force has assigned National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur to carry out detailed studies in respect of soil and ground water remediation around the UCIL factory premises. For dismantling the structures of the plant of the UCIL, the study has been assigned to Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad.

(c) and (d) The matter of extradition of Warren Anderson is being followed up by Central Bureau of Investigation and Ministry of External Affairs with the U.S. Authorities. The Ministry of External Affairs had informed that the request for extradition of Warren Anderson had been rejected by the U.S. Authorities on two occasions as the grounds on which the extradition was sought were not acceptable to the U.S. Authorities. The CBI had again sent their request for extradition of Warren Anderson to the Ministry of External Affairs. The matter is still pending with Ministry of External Affairs/U.S. Authorities for execution.

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